

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SR-02 SCA-01 AID-20 IGA-02 PC-15 EB-11 SPC-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /145 W

----- 060102

R 212221Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9245

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, EAID, EC, ICEM

SUBJ: U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM

OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN
MIGRATION (ICEM)

REF: STATE 217677

SUMMARY: ICEM PROGRAM IN ECUADOR IS ACTIVE, GROWING
AND ENJOYS GOE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. TO BEST OF ICEM'S
KNOWLEDGE, GREAT MAJORITY OF MIGRANTS UNDER PROGRAM
REMAIN IN ECUADOR. TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
OFFERED BY ICEM IS VALUABLE AND UNIQUE, THUS IT WOULD
BE LOST TO EXTENT PROGRAM CUT. EMBASSY/USAID RECOMMEND
THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR ICEM
CY 74 SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY/USAID HAVE BEEN MEETING REGULARLY WITH ICEM
REPRESENTATIVE JORGE MORA (SPANISH) FOR OVER TWO YEARS.
WE CONSIDER ICEM SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM EFFECTIVE
AND USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT, SINCE IMMIGRANTS
POSSESS SKILLS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN ECUADOR (ICEM RESPONDS
TO REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC SKILLS). ICEM HAS MANY MORE
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REQUESTS FOR TECHNICIANS THAN IT CAN FILL. THE ECUA-

DOREAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS PARTICULARLY WEAK IN PROVIDING MIDDLE-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS. AS THE DEMAND IN ECUADOR FOR SUCH PERSONNEL CONTINUES TO RISE, THE NEED FOR ICEM PROGRAM WILL INCREASE. SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE OAS, UN, AID, AND PEACE CORPS PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY ICEM RECRUITS TO ADD PERMANENTLY TO ECUADOR'S TECHNICAL MANPOWER. AT LEAST HALF A DOZEN EXPERTS HAVE COME TO WORK IN INSTITUTIONS WHOSE FOUNDING WAS USAID PROJECTS (CENDES, CENTRO DE EJECUTIVOS, SECAP), AND OTHER EXPERTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION (NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD, STANDARDS INSTITUTE).

2. TO ICEM'S KNOWLEDGE, 9.9 PERCENT OF PROGRAM IMMIGRANTS HAVE DEPARTED ECUADOR SINCE INITIATION OF THE PROGRAM, BUT THE DEPARTURE RATE HAS DROPPED SHARPLY SINCE 1971. KNOWN DEPARTURES AVERAGED 18 PER YEAR 1965-70, BUT ONLY 3 PER YEAR 1971-73. WE CONSIDER LATTER RATE EXCELLENT IN HIGH-RISK BUSINESS OF RESETTLING PROFESSIONAL FAMILIES.

3. ECUADOR HAS PROVIDED THE REQUIRED FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THE GOE MADE AVAILABLE \$22,000 IN 1971, \$31,000 IN 1972, AND BUDGETED \$36,000 IN 1973. THESE AMOUNT COVER GOE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ICEM SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM ON THE BASIS OF \$100 PER TECHNICIAN AND \$40 PER DEPENDENT, COST OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM, ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN ECUADOR, AND CERTAIN IMMIGRANT ADJUSTMENT EXPENSES. ACCORDING TO MORA, ECUADOR DOES NOT OWE ICEM A CENT. IN CONTRAST, MOST INTERNATIONAL DONOR AGENCIES HAVE DIFFICULTY OBTAINING GOE COUNTERPART FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE INCREASING GOE BUDGET SUPPORT REFLECTS CONTINUING GOE INTEREST IN PROGRAM.

4. THE ECONOMICS OF THE ICEM PROGRAM ARE VERY FAVORABLE FOR ECUADOR AND THE U.S. AT A COST PER SKILLED IMMIGRANT OF ABOUT \$1,000 TO ICEM AND \$200 TO ECUADOR (INCLUDING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM), ECUADOR IS RECEIVING TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE WHOSE EDUCATIONS REPRESENT HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENTS OF \$10-20,000. NO OTHER U.S. OR INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPROACHES THAT OF ICEM IN TERMS OF LOW COST.

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5. THE NUMBER OF JOB OFFERS RECEIVED BY ICEM HAS RISEN FROM 105 IN 1970 TO 144 IN 1972 AND 134 DURING THE FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 1973. THE LIMITING FACTOR ON THE SIZE OF THE PROGRAM IS THE DIFFICULTY OF RECRUITING SUITABLE PERSONNEL IN EUROPE, RATHER THAN PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ECUADOR. ECUADOR WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR RECRUITMENT PURPOSES AND WOULD BE DISADVANTAGED TO

THE EXTENT THAT SUCH FUNDS ARE CUT.

6. ICEM, WITH UNIQUE EXPERIENCE MOVING AND PLACING IMMIGRANTS, COULD RENDER VALUABLE SERVICE IN ADMINISTRATION OF INTRA-LA MIGRATION, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING REFUGEES, BUT ALSO (PERHAPS THROUGH OAS) RELATING TO DIFFERENCES IN COUNTRY MANPOWER SHORTAGES/OVERAGES.

7. FOR ABOVE REASONS, EMBASSY AND USAID RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR CY 1974 TO ICEM SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE MERITS OF THE ICEM REFUGEE PROGRAM; WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ECUADOR PARTICIPATES IN THE REFUGEE PROGRAM TO A MUCH SMALLER EXTENT THAN THE SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE RELIEF, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973QUITO06056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731120/aaaaaoc.z.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 217677
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN
TAGS: SREF, EAID, EC, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005